

## **Sharps Disposal Information**

### **What are sharps?**

Sharps include needles and syringes, lancets, used glucose strips, and any item that may be soiled with blood. This could include cotton balls, tissues and alcohol wipes.

### **How do I safely disposal of sharps?**

Oregon and Washington have laws about how to dispose of sharps. There is a stiff penalty for not following the laws. The penalty is a fine up to \$10,000 per day that you violate the law. Even if you only test your blood sugar level, you must dispose of lancets in a sharps container.

According to the law, you must dispose of sharps in an approved “sharps container.” Approved containers are rigid, leak proof, puncture resistant, sealed and clearly marked with the biohazard symbol.

The Portland VA Medical Center **does not accept** filled sharps containers. Please do not bring filled containers to the Portland VA for disposal.



### **Where do I get a “sharps containers?” Where do I dispose of a filled sharps container?**

Check with your local pharmacy to see if they sell sharps containers. Wherever you can dispose of a filled container, you can purchase a new container.

Here is a list of pharmacies and recycling services where you can dispose of a filled sharps container and get a new one.

#### **Pharmacies:**

- ◆ **Long’s Drug** sells sharps containers and disposes of them free of charge.
- ◆ **Hi-School Pharmacies** dispose of containers only at certain locations and there is a cost. Call you local pharmacy to find out.
- ◆ **Fred Meyer Pharmacies** will take full containers for \$2 if you are a member of their “Diabetes Club.” You can join for a one-time membership fee of \$1. Sharps containers must be purchased from the store in order to dispose of it.
- ◆ **Marsh Medical Services** stocks 15 to 20 different size sharps containers. They charge about \$5 to dispose of a filled container. (503-656-4236

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**Recycling Services:****In Portland:**

Dispose of “sharps containers” through METRO.

Go to a Metro hazardous waste facility

Metro Central 161 NW 61<sup>st</sup> St, Portland 503-222-6788

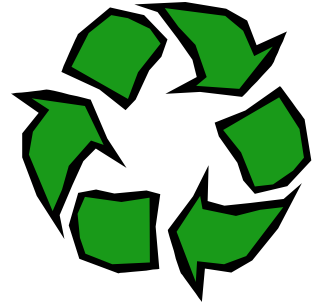
Metro South 2001 SW Washington St, Portland (exit 10 off I-205.) 503-657-2872

**Or**

Call Metro Recycling Information at 504-234-3000.

You can purchase a gallon or quart size sharps container for \$5.

From then on each time you bring a full sharps container to dispose, you will exchange it for a new container.

**In Vancouver:**

Dispose of “sharps containers” through Waste Management of Vancouver. (360-737-2425-Customer Service.)

They charge \$5 to pick up your “sharps container” with your regular garbage collection. You need to request the pick up 24-hours ahead of time.

**Or**

For \$12.50, they will pick up your filled “sharps container” and give you a new one.

Waste Connection of Clark County does not provide “sharps services.”

**Remember:** The Portland VA Medical Center does not accept filled sharps containers for disposal!